

The Crucible, Act II, by Arthur Miller
Enrichment: Film Adaptations

In 1957, Frenchman Raymond Rouleau directed a reasonably successful film version of Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible*. In 1996, American director Nicholas Hytner released his own version starring Daniel Day-Lewis as Proctor and Winona Ryder as Abigail.

With any film adaptation, special considerations have to be made about how to recast a story that was originally meant to be acted out on a stationary, limited stage. Arthur Miller himself worked on the screenplay for Hytner's 1996 production. As he developed the screenplay, Miller had to think in terms of filming on location, multiple and mobile cameras, and elaborate and authentic props and settings.

DIRECTIONS: *Suppose that you are developing your own film adaptation of Act II of The Crucible. How will you have to alter the act (if at all) to make it appropriate for modern filming? What additional stage directions will be required? Consider these issues as you answer the following questions.*

1. What is the setting of Act II? Thoroughly describe how the setting will look in your movie. Consider atmosphere, furnishings, lighting, and general dimensions in your response.

2. What has John Proctor been doing all day? As though you were coaching an actor in rehearsal, describe in detail Proctor's clothing and appearance as well as his manner of moving after a hard day's work.

3. Mr. Hale is a man of learning; he is different from the Salemites. How will his appearance and mannerisms reflect that difference? Write detailed stage directions for the actor who plays Hale in the scene in which he first enters the Proctors' home.
